

**HB 5630**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LICENSURE FOR AN**  
**ADVANCED PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER.**

Connecticut Law Makers, I urge your support of HB 5630. We all know that it took the Medical Community several years to accept the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and today the APRN plays a major role in community health that we cannot afford to be without. We as a nation are blessed that lawmakers took a risk on their behalf. The presence of the APRN has increased efficiency while lowering costs of health care delivery while stimulating a profession in pathways of growth. I am urging you to consider the same for the Registered Dental Hygienist.

To be admitted into any dental hygiene program, the applicant is required to have an extraordinarily high academic achievement record and excellent tactile motor skills. The license issued by the CT Department of Public Health ensures the safety of high quality soft tissue management. Certainly the registered dental hygienist has the capacity for high quality hard tissue management.

I have been a practicing Registered Dental Hygienist for 24 years encompassing a number of private practices, pedodontic and convalescent homes, universities, and military experiences. I have earned a Baccalaureate and Masters Degree. With all the years of education and experience, I simply cannot practice any differently than the day I earned my license in 1985. It is frustrating to watch patients unable to afford restorative care which inevitably leads to infection and pain (usually on an emergency basis, on the weekends or holidays) when you know you are in a position to help but can't because of the current practice act.

Hygienists already work in the school systems, nursing homes, and a variety of other areas unsupervised. We have already acquired proficiency in pain management. Sadly, there is plenty of dental disease out there to go around. With the proposed curriculum for the ADHP, we are poised to be a most effective oral health care team with dentists, expanded function dental assistants, physicians, nurses, social workers and teachers. The ADHP can and will make a positive impact on oral disease while keeping costs down for the client, their families, and the taxpayers of Connecticut. Furthermore, in a community setting, it cannot impinge on the private practice dental business.

Health care is on the table for major reform. Please consider the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner as the missing midlevel provider to stand in the gap to oral care access just as the APRN's contributions have made such a significant impact in community health during this time of reformation.

Your consideration is highly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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